

# ARTICLES

ECCLESIASTICAL TO

be enquired of by the Church-  
wardens and Sworne-men with-  
in the

In the Visitation of the

And in the (20<sup>th</sup>) yeere of the Reigne of our  
most dread Soueraigne Lord  
King IAMES.)



LONDON

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1621.

is 23.



## ¶ The Oath.

**Y**ou shall sweare by the Name of Almighty God, well and truly to execute the Office of Churchwardens and Sidemen, &c. That you shall diligently consider, and enquire of all and every the Articles following, and make a true answer to every of the same severally, and distinctly in writing, presenting every person of your Parish, who hath, or shall, in your Parish, or elsewhere: and every person of any other Parish, who hath, or shall in your Parish commit any offence or fault, mentioned in any of the said Articles, or which are publickly, and credibly defamed for any such offence, or fault: wherein you shall not vnduely present any person or persons of will will, malice, or any corrupt affection, nor shall for loue, fauour, dread, or any other indirect affection, spare to present any that bee offenders in any of those cases, but shall doe vprightly, as men hauing the feare of God before your eyes, and desirous to maintaine vertue, and suppressse vice. So helpe you God by Christ Iesus.

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¶ Note, you are by your said Oath to present truly what you either know of your owne knowledge, or what is publickly & credibly famed and spoken touching any matter or thing contained in any Article following.



First, whether any person whatsoeuer of your Parish doth maintaine or defend any Heresies, false opinions, or Popish errors, contrary to the word of God, and the Articles of Religion established in this Realme?

2 Whether any person bee an impugnor or deppauer either in word or writing the forme of Ecclesiasticall gouernement of the Church of England, or of the Booke of Common prayer, or the Rites and Ceremonies prescribed therein, or of the Kings Supremacie in causes Ecclesiasticall, or of the Oath of Supremacie or Allegiance?

3 Whether any Parson doth reade publique Service in any Church or Chappell, not being lawfully ordered Deacon at the least, and licensed by the Lord Bishop or his Chauncellor.

4 Whether any Parson, Vicar, or Curate presume to preach in their Cures, or elsewhere, not being licensed by the Bishop or Ordinarie?

5 Whether is your Parson or Vicar known, or probably

A 2 and

whether the directions touching preaching & preaching, & catechizing  
likely published by his Maies authoritie be carefully & constantly  
observed in our parishes.

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and publickly famed or reported to haue obtained his Benefice by Simony, or to let out his Liuing to farme, or any part thereof to any person in consideration of any such Simoniacall compact.

6 Whether haue you had a Sermon preached euery Sabbath day this last yeere in your Church: if not, yet how many haue you had: and vpon those Sundaies that you had not a Sermon, haue you had an Homely read:

7 Whether hath any stranger been suffered to preach in your Church or Chappell, without hauing first shewed his licence to preach vnto the Minister and Churchwardens according to the 30. Canon.

8 Whether doth your Minister vpon euery Sunday and Holy day in the afternoone before euening prayer call for, and instruct all the youth and ignorant persons of your Parish, of both Sexes, in the Catechisme, and grounds of Christian Religion for halfe an houre or more:

9 Whether bee there any Parents, Masters, or gouernours, who send not their childe, or seruants to bee catechized on euery Sabbath day, and Holy day, or any childe, or seruants that refuse to bee instructed or examined:

10 Whether doth your Minister neglect or forsake his calling, and betake himselfe to worldly affaires, mercenary, or manuell Trades, haunt markets, or intermeddle with, or sollicite matters of Law for other men:

11 Whether doth your Minister haunt or frequent Alehouses, or Tavernes, or is hee probably or publickly famed of any notorious crime, or any euill example of life, to the offence and scandall of his vocation:

12 Whether doth your Minister vse or weare any kind of apparell which is vnseemly his calling, so: colour or fashion of the same, or otherwise then according to the 74. Canon:

13 Whether doeth your Minister at all times weare the Surplesse in the time of Diuine Service and administration of the Sacraments? And if hee bee a Graduate, whether doeth hee also vpon his Surplesse weare a hood incident to his degree:

14 Whether

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14 Whether doe you know, or haue credibly and publickly heard of any within your Parish that are procurers of Schismes, or maintainers of Schismatickes, or which are resorters to conuenticles, or congregations of the Kings Subjects, other then such as by the Lawes Ecclesiasticall of this Realme are allowed?

15 Whether doeth your Minister vse any other forme of Common prayer, then is prescribed in the Booke of Common prayer, and whether doth hee vse such directions, rites, and ceremonies in Service, and the administration of the Sacraments, as by the said booke are required, and none other?

16 Whether doeth your minister admit to the Communion any notorious adulterer fornicator, or incestuous person, or other great offender which hath not first done his penance, or any stranger of another Parish, contrary to the 28. Canon?

17 Whether haue any been married within your Parish that haue not vpon the day of their marriage receiued the holy Communion? or any been married in times prohibited, or without haues solemnely asked three seuerall Sundayes, other wise then by licence of the Ordinary, as you know, or credibly and publickly haue heard?

18 Whether hath your Minister vled the forme of thanksgiving prescribed for women after childbirth, for any woman unlawfully begotten with childe, other wise then in the habite of a penitent sinner, or before sufficient caution be taken for her not departing the Parish untill shee hath done penance for her offence?

19 Whether doth your Parson, Preacher, Lecturer, and Vicar in his owne person, at the leastwise in euery yeere vpon two Sundayes publickly, both in the forenoone and afternoone in your Church or Chappell, reade Diuine Service, and administer both the Sacraments in such manner and forme as is prescribed by the Booke of Common prayer according to the 56. Canon?

20 Whether doth your Minister daily <sup>duely</sup> visite the sicke,

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and exhorte them truely to beleue in Chyſt, and repent them of their ſinnes, and comfort and pray for them, as is preſcribed in the Booke of Common prayer :

21 Whether doth your Parſon, Vicar, or Farmor of the Tithes, ſuffer either the Parſonage or Vicarage - houſe or other buildings thereto belonging, or the Chancell to fall to ruine or decay, and doth not preſently repaire them :

22 Whether hath any perſon taken away or uncoverd any Church, Chappell or Chancell, or any part of them, or any Church porch, or Veſtrie, or hath pulled downe the belles, or made any other ſpoile or waſte vpon his Benefice, either in timber, or woods :

23 Whether is your Church every way ſufficiently, and well repayed, and no defect in glazing, tiling, ſieling, paving, or in any thing elſe belonging to the ſame : and whether the Church bee beautified, and adorned with Scripture ſentences :

24 Whether is your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced with Wall, Raile, Pale or other fence, and is your Church-yard profaned, or ſwine ſuffered to rooſe there :

25 Whether haue you in your Pariſh Church or Chappell the new booke of Common prayer, two Pſalters, the Bible in Engliſh of the largeſt volume, lately ſet forth by his Maieſties authoritie, the two volumes of Homilies, Maſter Iewels worke, Erasmus Paraphraſe, the table of the tenne Commandements, and the Table of the degrees of Affinitie and Conſanguinitie, wholly and vntogether, a conuenient Pulpit, a ſit ſeate for your Miniſter, a decent Communion Table vpon a frame, a linnen cloth to couer it, with ſome other couer of like, or ſuch like, a Communion cuppe of ſiluer, and couer of the ſame, a cleane ſweete ſtanding Pot, or ſtoope of pewter, or other purer mettall, to put in the wine for the uſe of the Communion, a ſufficient font well couered, decent Suppleſſe of fine holland, with large ſheues, a ſure coffer with three lockes for the Reſiſter Booke, a ſtrong cheſt with three lockes there to for the almes boxe, and haue your Miniſter and Churchwardens ſeueral keyes to thoſe coffer

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Coffers according to the 70. Canon?

26 Whether doth your Minister and Churchwardens every Sunday after Evening prayer take the Register booke, and then Register the names of all those who were Christened, married or buried the weeke before, and is the same a faire booke of parchment, and safely kept under lockes and keyes?

27 Whether doth any Parson serue two Cures, or any Curate serue his Cure not in due time? and what stipend hath your Curate by the yeare?

28 Whether hath your Minister published and executed all such processees, excommunications, and penances as haue been directed vnto him from the Lord Bishop or his Chancellour, in such sort as was prescribed and without delay? and whether hath he duly made Certificates thereof, and of all penances according as they haue beene performed and no other wise, as you know, or credibly and publiquely haue heard?

29 Whether hath your Parson or Vicar moe Benefices then one, how many, and in what places be they? what be the names, and values of them, and whether is he absent from among you aboue 80. dayes in all in any one yeare? and if hee hath two Benefices, hath he a preaching Curate on that Benefice whereon he doth not reside? and whether doth he let any lease of any of his Benefices, or any part thereof? and to whom? and for how long?

30 Whether is your Clarke aged twenty yeares at least, and approued by the Ordinary, and hath hee taken an Oath, and is he able to read distinctly, as by law is required, and is he diligent in keeping the Church, Chancell, Communion table, Font, Bookes, ornaments of the Church, and all such things as belong to his charge safe, decent and cleane?

31 Whether is there any Schoolemaster teaching either openly or priuately in your Parish, or any person who practiseth Whillick, or Surgerie? and what be their names?

32 Whether haue any Loyds of Mistrule, Dauncers, Play-ers, or any other disgiſed persons beene suffered to enter the Church, Chappell, or Churchyard with their sports? and if they haue, what be the names of such disorderd persons?



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- 33 Whether be there in your Parish any unlawfull exercises vnder any Sabaoth, or Festivall dayes? whether doe any vse dauncing, or such like sports on the Sabaoth day before the end of all diuine Service appointed for that day? whether be there any common drinke in your Church? who were present at such drinke, or sports, and whether any doe sit in the Tauerne, Alehouse, or Streete vpon Sundayes or Holydayes in the time of morning or evening prayer?
- 34 Whether be there any in your Parish that vse any handie craft, or worke, or keepe open shop vpon any Sabaoth or Festivall day, or that within time of Paruell doe vpon Holydayes labour about their Paruell, or then vse any carriages by wayne, or otherwise, vntill necessity shall require, or the law permit it?
- 35 Whether there be in your Parish any disturbers of the diuine service of God, or which doe vse any talking, walking, or any vnrueerent behauiour in Church or Churchyard in time of diuine service?
- 36 Whether doth your Minister giue warning aforesaid to his Parishioners for the receiuing of the Communion, and are there any in your Parish of conuenient age, viz. aboue sixteen yeares, that doe not receiue the Communion thrice in every yeare at the least? or any that receiue the Communion otherwise then most reuerently kneeling on their knees?
- 37 Whether any of your Parish doe receiue Seminarie Priests or other Sepucers into their houses; and whether there be any Strangers that lodge in your Parish, especially about Easter, and doe absent themselves from Church?
- 38 Whether haue your Churchwardens bene diligent themselves in frequencing diuine service, and doing their office, and duly giuen account at the yeares end of the goods, and rents of the Church, or not distributed the publique almes indifferently?
- 39 Whether when any man or woman is passing out of this life, the Bell be tolled to giue warning to the people to pray for the sicke person? if not, in whose default?
- 40 Whether any person of your Parish hath refused to communicate



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communicate by the space of fourty dayes? and whether any excommunicate person hath intruded himselfe or beene admitted vnto diuine seruice, the Sacrament or like publique assemblies? and who are keepers of company with any excommunicate person, or doe harbour any excommunicate person in their houses, or let them to worke contrary to the law?

41 Whether any excommunicate Recusant, or other obstinate excommunicants haue beene buried in your Church, or Churchyard: by whom were they so buried: and who were present?

42 Whether any of your Parish be knowne, or credibly and publicly famed to be attempters of the chastity of any woman, or incestuous persons, or adulterers, or fornicators before or after marriage? Bawdes or receptors of incontinent persons into their houses, or which conuay them away before they haue done penance for the same: and whether any that heretofore haue for those crimes departed your Parish unpunished, are now returned againe?

43 Whether there be any blasphemers of the name of God, or swearers, or any common drunkards, slanderers or defamers of their neighbours in your Parish: and what are their names?

44 Whether any person in your Parish be knowne or reputed to vse any Witchcraft, Sorcerie, Charmes, or any that doe take vpon them to tell destinies, or to guide men to things lost, or any that resorteth vnto such for helpe and counsell?

45 Whether haue there beene any children borne in your Parish, which haue not beene brought to be baptized in your Parish Church: (and whether any children of your Parish haue been baptized by a Seminarie Priest: what is the name of that Priest: and whether any of the children of Recusants or Sojourners with Recusants haue had their baptism deferred longer then the next Sabbath day, or which remaine as yet unbaptized: and whose are those children?)

46 Whether hath any Father answered as Godfather to his owne childe, and whether haue any beene admitted to be Godfather or Godmother to any childe in your Parish, who before

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before that time haue not receiued the holy Communion :

47 Whether any persons of your Parish diuorced lawfully, doe notwithstanding accompany together : and whether any persons lawfully married, haue forsaken their wiues or husbands, or liue not together, or any which haue married any person contracted to others : or which had not the consent of their parents : and whether any were married in any priuate house, or within the degrees prohibited, or not betwene the houres of eight and twelue of the clocke in the forenoone :

39 48 Whether doe you know any person formerly presented, which hath not bene conuicted and censured by the ordinarie for the same : or any enjoyned to doe penance, who either hath not done it, or done it not penitently, but scornfully, and not in forme, habite, and time prescribed, or any that haue laughed or scorned at these, who haue done their penance : and what be their names :

49 Whether any Hospitall or Almshouse be either pulled downe or growne to decay : whether the number of poore and impotent persons appointed by the founders are maintained there : and if not, in whose default : whether any lands or legacies giuen to such or other godly uses, are not imployed accordingly : and whether any rights, or duties belonging to your Church be detained by any person :

40 50 Whether doe you know any person within your Parish, who directly or indirectly taketh vsurie or interest for money lent, contrary to the lawes of God and this Realme : who are they : and what is the manner of their vsurie :

41 51 Whether any person of your Parish hath suppressed the last will and testament of any person deceased, or administered the goods of any person intestate before administration committed vnto him : whether doe you know any forgers or changers of such wills : or any Executors which hath not fulfilled the Testators will in payment of Legacies to good and godly uses :

42 52 Whether haue your Churchwardens sold or alienated any of the Church bookes, ornaments, or goods : if yea, then to whom : and vpon what cause : and in whose possession are they :

*See 4th rule of 10m 95 100*

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they: and whether hath any Churchwarden or Sworneman at any time concealed any disorder, crime, or fame of any crime, and not presented the same to be reformed:

53 Whether for the retaining of the circuite, and limits of your Parish doe your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, Churchwardens, and certaine of the substantiall men of your Parish in the dayes of perambulation, commonly called the Rogation weeke, walke and compasse the accustomed bounds of your Parish: and whether in the said perambulation both the Minister vse any other right or ceremonie, then to say or sing to the praise of God some Psalm of David of thankesgiuing, as the hundred and third, or hundred and fourth Psalmes, with the Lettanie and prayers following, or reading some part of holy Scripture or homely, and without carrying of Banners, or handbells, or such like Popish obseruations:

54 Whether are there any persons in your Parish which doe not diligently resort to your Parish Church, or Chappell accustomed, every Sunday and Holiday according to the statute: what are their names, who doe not so resort: when haue they so bene absent: and whether both your Minister admonish the Churchwardens openly in the Church after the second Lesson at morning and evening prayer, to looke to their charge in that behalfe:

55 What Recusant Papists are there in your Parishes: present their names, qualities, and conditions, how long haue they abstained from diuine Service or from the Communion: or doe any of them keepe any ornaments of superstition vnde-  
faced.

56 Whether any in your Parish (who heretofore being Popish Recusants, haue reformed themselves) doe still remaine and abide in the same conformity, and is there a booke provided in your Parish, to register the names of all such Recusants, who so conforme and submit themselves according to the Statute of 35. Eliz.

57 Whether haue you a terrier of all the gleabelands, me-  
dowes, gardens, orchards, houses, stocks, implements, tene-  
ments, and portions of tythes (whether within your Parish or  
without)

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without) belonging to your Parsonage or Vicaridge, taken by the view of honest men in your Parish: and whether the same terrier be laide by in the Bishops Registrie: and in whose hands are any of them now: and if you haue no terrier already made in parchment, you the Churchwardens & Stewards together with your Parson or Vicar, or in his absence with your Minister, are to make diligent inquirie and presentment of the premises, and to make, subscribe, and signe a terrier as aforesaid.

48 58 Whether doth your Minister vpon Wednesdaies and Fridaies, not being Holydaies, reade in your Church or Chappell publicquely the Letany, and other prayers appointed in the booke of Common prayer for those dayes: and whether doth hee read the Commination against sinners, in such order and forme as it is there also prescribed.

49 59 Whether doth your Minister vpon some Sundaies or Holydaies in the after noone before diuine seruice, reade ouer once euery yeare all the Canons Ecclesiasticall, published by his Maiesties authoritie Anno 1603. publicquely in your Church or Chappell where hee serueth, diuiding the same in such sort, as that the one halfe may be read one day, and the other another day.

50 60 Whether doth your Minister refuse or delay to christen any childe brought to be christned vpon Sundaies and Holydaies, according to the booke of Common prayer: or being informed of his weakenesse, or danger of death, doth refuse to goe to the place where the said Infant remaineth to baptize it.

51 61 Whether hath there bene since the last Visitation or before, which is not presented, any contention, brawling, or fighting in your Church, or Churchyard, betwixt any of the Parishioners touching the placing or displacing of any in any seat or Pew in the Church, or touching any other cause: and whether hath there bene any Pew builded, or alteration made since the aforesaid time in any your Churches, without the expresse leaue of the Ordinary of the Diocesse, and by whom hath the same bene done?

52 62 Whether are there any Anne-keepers, Alewinters, or Victualers

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maisters in your Parish, that suffer any person to eate, drinke,  
or play at Dice, Cards, Tables, Bowles, or such like games  
in their houses in the time of Common prayer, or Serimon on  
Sundayes or Holydayes: whether any Butchers or others  
doe sell meate or other things in the time of Common prayer,  
preaching, or reading of Homilies. *on Sundayes or Holydayes.*

63 Whether hath any person cut downe any tree or trees  
growing in your Churchyard, to the hurt or prejudice of the  
Church: and to what vse was it conuerted as you know, or  
credibly and publiquely haue heard.

64 Whether hath your Minister or any other Minister  
baptized any childe in your Parish, without vsing the signe of  
the Crosse at the baptisme thereof: or solemnized marriage  
without vsing the Ring therein according to the booke of Com-  
mon prayer.

65 Whether is all due reuerence vsed in time of diuine  
seruice, and of euery part thereof, according to the 18. Canon,  
and whether there be any in your Parish that vse any vneue-  
rent speeches or lectures against Ministers, and in contempt  
of their calling and function.

66 Whether any Apparitor or other person hath com-  
pounded or smothered for reward or fauour, any cause or mat-  
ter of office belonging to the Ecclesiasticall Court: if yea, then  
doe you declare the same, and what money or reward hee had  
for the same.

67 And generally whether doe you know of any of the  
Lawes Ecclesiasticall violated or broken, or any Ecclesiasti-  
call matters worthy of redresse: and if you doe, then you are to  
present the same, and in all your presentments as neere as pos-  
sible you may, you are to note the yeare, time, and place of eu-  
ery offence committed.

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Arch: Mountagu  
Arch: 1622



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